times ; and although sometimes cited by them in confirmation of their own opinions arrived at evidently by independent thinking, they are oftener criticised as inculcating the lower discipline of sacrifices and other mere external observances than admired and appreciated. The *Upanishads,* in short, are the products of a free and enlightened age, and hence retain a freshness and originality after the lapse of so many centuries after their composition. It is this fact, again, which makes them philosophical as well as religious treatises and which makes them tlie starting point of a pliilosophy which is as living now as it was in the time of Buddha."

Before closing this chapter I may assert emphatically that in understanding the religious verities declared in the *Upanishads,* we must in our turn exercise our reasoning faculty and not accept them as gospel truths simply because they were proclaimed by the Rishis. Great as they were, they were not infallible. They had only used with excep-tional power and ingenuity that reasoning faculty with which God had endowed the sons of men generally. We have to study their teachings with mature intelligence and undimmed

ratiocination to evaluate their intrinsic merits, their balanced wisdom, their admirable method, their marvellous outlook on human nature and the world. Every truth seeker would then find in God, as the Rishis did, a living D^ity and a loving Father who knocks at the door of every heart, lights the lamp of inspiration in every soul, seeks after and reclaims every wandering sinner. He should honour the prophets and sages of all ages and countries. He should draw in, like gentle gales from distant lands, messages of wisdom and news of love from all quarters. For him the Finger of Pro-vidence is working everywhere and the whole universe is one ever-unfolding chart of God's revelation. In spirit, he should be humble in the search of truth, unbiassed in the appreciation of wisdom catholic. To him there is no book but may disclose a precious fact, no man but may display